

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 ARA-06 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AS-01 /085 W

----- 005779

R 071040Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 628

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR GH AO

SUB: ACHEAMPONG SPEAKS AT STUDENTS CONFERENCE

1. DURING MORNING OF JANUARY 6 HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG
GAVE ONE-HALF HOUR PREPARED ADDRESS TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE
QUOTE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' SEMINAR ON NEO-COLONIALIST PEN-
ETRATION INTO AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
LEARNING UNQUOTE. MOST OF ADDRESS CONCERNED NEED FOR ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO GO HAND IN HAND WITH REQUIREMENTS OF AFRICAN
DIGNITY AND LIBERATION AND NECESSITY FOR AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
TO UNIFY IN ATTACKING COMMON PROBLEMS. TOWARDS END OF ADDRESS
ACHEAMPONG MADE DIRECT REFERENCE TO ANGOLA AND STATED THAT THE
MISERY OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN CAUSED
BY OLD ANTAGONISMS AND POLITICAL RIVALRY BUT HAD BEEN
GREATLY AGGRAVATED ANDPROLONGED BY QUOTE GREAT POWER RIVALRY
UNQUOTE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN QUOTE INVASION UNQUOTE OF
ANGOLA.HE STATED THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS THEREBY FRUSTRATED

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THE OAU'S EFFORTS TO RECONCILE WARRING FACTIONS AND

THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S GOAL IN ANGOLA IS TO PRE-EMPT THE FORMATION OF A BASE THERE WHICH COULD BE USED TO ATTACK IT. ACHEAMPONG THEN REVIEWED GHANA'S EFFORTS ON THE OAU FACT-FINDING COMMISSION ON ANGOLA AND SAID THAT SINCE THESE EFFORTS HAD COME TO NAUGHT GHANA NOW PLEDGES QUOTE ALL ASSISTANCE UNQUOTE (NOT FURTHER ELABORATED) TO THE MPLA IN ITS EFFORTS AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF AFRICAN LIBERATION.

2. AFTER ACHEAMPONG'S ADDRESS, GHANAIAN STUDENT LEADER ADOLPH ARTHUR THANKED THE CHAIRMAN AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND NATIONAL REDEMPTION COUNCIL FOR ATTENDING AND STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE CHAIRMAN WOULD SEND ASSISTANCE TO THE MPLA ON A TIMELY BASIS, AND NOT DELAY AS HAD BEEN THE CASE IN GRANTING RECOGNITION TO THE MPLA.

3. SEMINAR WILL LAST THROUGH JANUARY 9 AND IS SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF GHANAIAN STUDENTS, THE ALL-AFRICAN STUDENT'S UNION AND THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT UNION. MOST OF THE 50 TO 70 CONFEREES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE GHANAIAN AND OTHER AFRICANS, ALTHOUGH UK, IRISH, SOVIET, CUBAN, YUGOSLAV AND OTHER NON-AFRICAN DELEGATES WERE THERE ALSO. AN EAST GERMAN WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE, BUT HAD NOT SHOWN UP. OPENING ADDRESSES BEFORE ACHEAMPONG'S ARRIVAL WERE STANDARD QUOTE REVOLUTIONARY UNQUOTE RHETORIC AND MADE FREQUENT REFERENCE TO ANGOLA (WITH STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR MPLA), AS WELL AS TO WESTERN NEO-COLONIALISM AND INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, STUDENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SPEAKERS, SEMINARS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ACCRA00118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760005-0840
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760181/aaaacuaj.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACHEAMPONG SPEAKS AT STUDENTS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, GH, AO, (ACHEAMPONG, IGNATIUS KUTU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006